

Ten Novels You Should Really Know About

(Okay, I lied. It's actually 14, but the # doesn't count because 3 of the authors have multiple novels listed. I just couldn't tell you about 1 of their books and not others I like.)

And the first writer(s) you really should know about is . . .

1. Cherie Bennett & Jeff Gottesfeld, a husband and wife team who set many of their books in and around middle Tennessee.

- 📖 *Searching for David's Heart* (1998). When the narrator's brother dies, she embarks upon a journey to discover who has his heart. (TARGETED AUDIENCE: middle school readers)
- 📖 *Life in the Fat Lane* (1999). Set in Nashville, this book takes the reader through the struggles beauty queen Lara Ardeche faces when she mysteriously gains weight. (TARGETED AUDIENCE: high school readers)
- 📖 *Zink* (2000). The young heroine in this book escapes into her own world where things like hospitals, chemo, cancer, and death do not happen. (TARGETED AUDIENCE: middle school readers)
- 📖 *Anne Frank & Me* (2001). Nicole Bernhardt is Generation X. After hitting her head at the Holocaust Museum in New York, Nicole's life dramatically changes when she wakes up in occupied Denmark in the 1940s. (TARGETED AUDIENCE: high school readers)
- 📖 *A Heart Divided* (2004). Living in Nashville is a huge change for Kate. Faced with a personal conviction that the school's Rebel flag and mascot are racist and offensive, Kate must make tough choices. (TARGETED AUDIENCE: middle school readers)

Moving right along . . .

2. Brian James

- 📖 *Tomorrow, Maybe* (2003). Can a guy tell a girl's story? James does a decent job, convincing readers he knows what Gretchen's (Chan's) life is like as a homeless teen. (TARGETED AUDIENCE: high school readers)

And now, we're up to . . .

3. Lauren Myracle

- 📖 *TTYL: Talk To Ya Later* (2005). This novel, the first one of its kind, is told in IM; that's instant messaging for those of you who didn't know. (TARGETED AUDIENCE: high school readers)
- 📖 *The Fashion Disaster That Changed My Life* (2005). Ali, the main character, learns about growing up and how to be a true friend. (TARGETED AUDIENCE: middle school readers)

- 📖 *Rhymes with Witches* (2005). Wanting to be in the inner circle, the main character learns that she must be someone she does not like. (TARGETED AUDIENCE: high school readers)
- 📖 *TTFN: Ta Ta for Now* (2006). A sequel to the *TTYL* novel, Myracle takes us through the lives of three teenage girls. (TARGETED AUDIENCE: high school readers)

Next on the list is . . .

4. Louise Rennison (British writer)

- 📖 *Angus, Thongs, and Full-Frontal Snogging: Confessions of Georgia Nicolson* (1999). A hilarious, can't-miss read! Seriously, you'll laugh out loud as you read Georgia's opinion on thongs, boys, and kissing. (TARGETED AUDIENCE: middle school readers)

Last, but certainly not least (hey I went in ABC order) . . .

5. Sonya Sones

- 📖 *Stop Pretending: What Happened When My Big Sister Went Crazy* (1999). Written in verse, readers capture a glimpse into the life of a young girl attempting to deal with her sister's mental illness. (TARGETED AUDIENCE: high school readers)
- 📖 *What My Mother Doesn't Know* (2001). Fifteen-year-old Sophie attempts to discover the difference between love and lust. Also written in verse. (TARGETED AUDIENCE: high school readers)
- 📖 *One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies* (2004). Ruby, the main character, grieving over the death of her mother is forced to move to Hollywood to live with a father she doesn't know. Ditto for the verse pattern. (TARGETED AUDIENCE: high school readers)

*3 websites you may be interested in:

1. www.cheriebennett.com
2. www.laurenmyracle.com
3. www.sonyasones.com

FYI: Email them. They really do write back!

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